

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /118 W

----- 016263

R 131415Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6839

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USINT ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, TS

SUBJECT: REPORTED IMMINENT CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT

1. THERE SEEMS TO BE CONSENSUS THAT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CURRENT DESTOURIAN "CONGRESS OF CLARITY", CABINET WILL CHANGE, POSSIBLY AS EARLY AS NEXT WEEK. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCE CLAIMS THERE WILL BE A WHOLESale SHIFT; OTHERS BELIEVE NUMBER OF CHANGES WILL BE MODEST. THOSE MOST FREQUENTLY MENTIONED AS LEAVING GOVERNMENT ARE MOALLA, MINISTER OF PLANNING; AYARI, MINISTER OF ECONOMY; FARHAT, MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT; AND CHATTI, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ONE STORY HAS INFLUENTIAL MINISTER SAYAH ASSUMING FOREIGN MINISTER PORTFOLIO.

2. COMMENT: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS.

OVER PAST YEAR TUNIS HAS BEEN RIPE WITH RUMORS RE POSSIBLE UPCOMING REMAINIEMENTS, BUT THEY HAVE NEVER TRANSPIRED. THIS TIME PROSPECTS LOOK BETTER. PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S HARD LINE AT CURRENT CONGRESS, INCLUDING EXCLUSION OF ALL
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BUT MOST FAITHFUL BOURGUIBISTS, SUGGESTS UNLIKELIHOOD THAT

ANY PARTY "LIBERALS" WILL BE INVOLVED IN CHANGES. HOWEVER,
ONE TUNISIAN OBSERVERSPECULATES THAT THERE IS OUTSIDE CHANCE
THAT NOW THAT BOURGUIBA HAS SUCCESSFULLY ASSERTED HIMSELF
IN HAVING HIS WAY AT CURRENT PARTY CONGRESS (IN SHARP
CONTRAST TO OPPOSITION POSED AT 1971 CONGRESS) HE MIGHT
NOW FEEL MORE SECURE IN GIVING PARTY LIBERALS SOME SCOPE.
WE DOUBT THIS, BUT WE SHALL SEE.

SEELYE

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NNN

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